

When biotech board meets, watch the stars come out

For a small biotech company with no profits, **Gilead Sciences** has friends in high places.

The company has put together one of the best connected boards of directors in the country. **George Schultz**, **Ronald Reagan's** Secretary of State from 1982 to 1989, just came aboard. He joins **Donald Rumsfeld**, a former Secretary of Defense, on the eight-member panel. Gilead sits rather strangely with the other Fortune 500-sized directorships selectively held by Schultz, 75: **Bechtel Group**, **AirTouch Communications** and **Gulfstream Aerospace**.



Michael Riordan

But that's not all. Joining Gilead's board at the same time as Schultz was a sprinkling of heavyweights from the world of business as well as government — like **James Denny**, the former chairman of **Sears Roebuck & Co.**, and **Gordon Moore**, founder of **Intel Corp.**

Insiders say the star-studded board is a testament to the salesmanship of CEO **Michael Riordan**, who has been able to romance VIPs with the promise of impending therapeutic breakthroughs.

And it's been time well spent: Gilead raised the most money of any Bay Area biotech in 1995 with its \$94 million secondary offering.